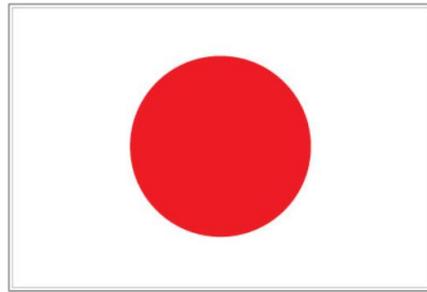




# JAPAN



## INTRODUCTION

Japan opened its ports in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Emperor NARUHITO

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA

### Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

### Capital

Tokyo

### Legislature

bicameral Diet or Kokkai consists of House of Councillors or Sangi-in (242 seats) and House of Representatives or Shugi-in (465 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 377,915 sq km  
Land: 364,485 sq km  
Water: 13,430 sq km

### Climate

varies from tropical in south to cool temperate in north

### Natural Resources

negligible mineral resources, fish; note, with virtually no natural energy resources, Japan is the world's largest importer of coal and liquefied natural gas, as well as the second largest importer of oil

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

third-largest, trade-oriented, and diversified economy; most indebted country; recent infrastructure spending, significant currency devaluations, consumption tax hikes; declining labor force; recent government stimulus largely offset COVID-19 downturn

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$5.231 trillion (2019 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$41,430 (2019 est.)

**Industries** - motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles, processed foods

**Agricultural products** - rice, milk, sugar beets, vegetables, eggs, poultry, potatoes, cabbages, onions, pork

**Exports** \$793.3 billion (2020 est.)

cars/vehicle parts, integrated circuits, personal appliances, ships (2019)

**partners:** US 19%, China 18%, South Korea 6%, Taiwan 6% (2019)

**Imports** \$799.5 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, coal, integrated circuits, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** China 23%, US 11%, Australia 6%, (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

124.7 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.37% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Japanese 97.9%, Chinese 0.6%, Korean 0.4%, other 1.1% (includes Vietnamese, Filipino, and Brazilian) (2017 est.)

### Language

Japanese

### Religion

Shintoism 69%, Buddhism 66.7%, Christianity 1.5%, other 6.2% (2018 est.)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>total adherents exceeds 100% because many people practice both Shintoism and Buddhism

